

10/782,451

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
MAR 09 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A dental restoration, consisting ~~[[essentially]]~~ of:
a base structure (16) formed of a selected one of a single member and multiple members, the base structure being adapted to be placed ~~over a prepared tooth stump on a selected one of a tooth stump of a tooth of the dental patient, a peg supported by a jaw of the dental patient, and an attachment element operable to be secured to neighboring tooth structure adjacent to the location at which the dental restoration is to be mounted,~~ the base structure having inner and outer contours;
a pre-fabricated comparatively hard over structure (24) in the form of a molar or premolar which, when assembled with the base structure (16), at least partially covers the base structure (16), the over structure (24) having an inner contour and at least one pre-configured bite element (38) having a predetermined bite surface on an outer contour; and
an elastic interconnecting material (26) for coupling the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) with one another, the interconnecting material being only one layer light-polymerizable and filling the entire layer defining space between the inner contour of the over structure and the outer contour of the base structure, the base structure, over structure, and the interconnecting material being so designed and constructed that a ~~time-consuming~~ firing of the assembly of the base structure, over structure, and interconnecting material can be omitted.
2. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the over structure (24) includes a covering element (40) that is interconnected with the bite element (38) and extends in at least partial coverage over at least one of a lingual, buccal, mesial, and distal region of the base structure (16), the covering element (40) being interconnected to the base structure (16) via the interconnecting material (26).
3. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the interconnecting material (26) extends in a surface covering manner between the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) and, preferably, the interconnecting material (26) fills the interspatial area between the base structure (16) and the over structure (24).
4. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the over structure (24) has an inner contour that is substantially compatibly configured with respect to an outer contour of the base structure (16) and, preferably, the inner contour of the over structure (24) and the outer contour of the base structure (16) have respective circular shapes.
5. (Previously presented) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the bite element (38) extends over the entire mastication area of the dental restoration and the bite element (38) is, preferably, configured as a single member component.

10/782,451

6. (Previously presented) A dental restoration according to claim 2, wherein the dental restoration extends substantially to preparation borders of such teeth and, preferably, the covering element (40) covers the medial and distal sides of such teeth.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 2, wherein each respective portion of the over structure (24) formed by the bite element (38) and the covering element (40) is comprised of at least one of ceramic and plastic.
10. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 2, wherein each of the bite element (38) and the covering element (40) is comprised of ceramic.
11. (Previously presented) A dental restoration according to claim 9, wherein the covering element is formed of a ceramic which is a pre-prepared ceramic and, preferably, is a selected one of an aluminum oxide ceramic, a zirconium oxide ceramic, a glass ceramic, and a mixture of such ceramics.
12. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the interconnecting material (26) is comprised of ceramic.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the base structure (16) is a selected one of a metal frame, a metal ceramic frame, a ceramic frame, a plastic frame, and a plastic fiberglass frame.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Previously presented) A dental restoration according to claim 1, wherein the bite element (38) of the over structure (24) forms a protuberance that simulates a tooth protuberance of a tooth and, preferably, a protuberance that simulates the tooth protuberance of the tooth which the dental restoration is intended to simulate.
17. (Original) A dental restoration according to claim 2, wherein the over structure (24) is configured as a single member component and the bite element (38) and the covering element (40) are comprised of the same material.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Currently amended) A method for producing a dental restoration, consisting [[essentially]] of the steps of:
providing a base structure (16) which is formed of a selected one of a single member and multiple members, the base structure having inner and outer contours and being adapted to be on a selected one of a tooth stump of a tooth of the dental patient, a peg supported by a jaw of the dental patient, and an attachment element operable to be secured to neighboring tooth structure adjacent to the location at which the dental restoration is to be mounted;

10/782,451

providing an elastic single layer interconnecting material (26) which is a light polymerizable material, which interconnecting material is provided on the base structure;
disposing[[,]] onto the interconnecting material (26) which has been provided on the base structure (16), a pre-fabricated comparatively hard over structure (24) in a manner in which the over structure (24) at least partially covers the base structure (16), the over structure (24) having an inner contour and at least one pre-configured bite element (38) having a predetermined bite surface on an outer contour, the interconnecting material filling the entire layer-defining space between the inner contour of the over structure and the outer contour of the base structure; and
after disposing the over structure (24) onto the interconnecting material (26), completely activating the interconnecting material (26) into its completely activated condition in which it securely interconnects the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) to one another, wherein the interconnecting material (26) is completely activated via irradiating with light to harden the interconnecting material (26), the method not requiring a ~~time-consuming~~ firing of the base structure, interconnecting material and over structure.

21. (Original) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 20, wherein the step of disposing the over structure (24) onto the interconnecting material (26) includes disposing an over structure (24) onto the interconnecting material (26) having an inner contour which is compatibly configured with respect to the outer contour of the base structure (16) such that the interconnecting material (26), as the over structure (24) is disposed onto the interconnecting material (26), extends into and fills the interspatial area between the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) in a manner by which the interconnecting material (26) assumes a substantially uniform thickness in the interspatial area between the base structure (16) and the over structure (24).

22. (Original) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 20, wherein the step of disposing the over structure (24) onto the interconnecting material (26) includes disposing the over structure (24) onto the interconnecting material (26) by pressing the over structure (24) onto the not yet completely activated interconnecting material (26).

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 20 ~~[[and]] wherein the step of dispensing further comprising the step of~~ comprises evaluating the prospective bite situation which will exist between the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) in their installed positions, the ~~[[step of]]~~ evaluating including evaluating the prospective bite situation before the interconnecting material (26) has been activated into its completely activated condition and, preferably, manipulating the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) relative to one another in an evaluation device that is, preferably, an articulator.

26. (Currently amended) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 20, wherein the over structure (24) partially covers the base structure (16) such that a portion of the base structure (16) is uncovered ~~and further comprising the step of covering the uncovered portion of the base structure (16) with at least one of free lying interconnecting material (26) which is exterior of the region at which the interconnecting material (26) interconnects the base structure (16) and the over structure (24) and a covering material (40).~~

10/782,451

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method for producing a dental restoration according to claim 22, wherein the step of ~~[[pressing]]~~ disposing the over structure (24) onto the not yet completely activated interconnecting material (26) results in a spillover of interconnecting material (26) exteriorly of the interspatial area between the over structure (24) and the base structure (16) ~~and further comprising the step of removing the~~ which spillover of interconnecting material (26) is removed before the step of completely activating the interconnecting material (26) into its completely activated condition.

29. (Cancelled)